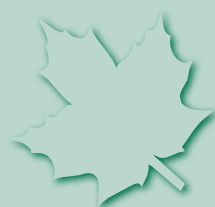


Measure Up

Fall 2011

Assessment news for elementary school teachers



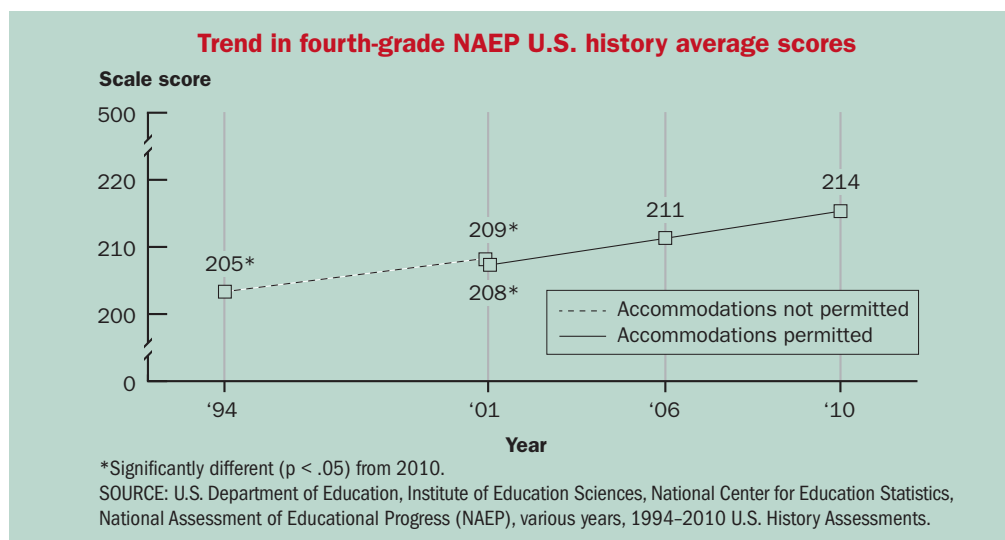
Did you know?

- **The NAEP long-term trend assessment will be administered in reading and mathematics to 9-, 13-, and 17-year-olds during the 2011-2012 academic year.**
- **The long-term trend assessment period for 9-year-olds is January 9 – March 16, 2012.**
- **Results for the NAEP 2011 reading and mathematics assessments will be released later this academic year.**

NAEP 2010 U.S. History Results

Students in grades 4, 8, and 12 participated in the 2010 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in U.S. history. At each grade, students responded to questions designed to measure their knowledge of American history in the contexts of democracy, culture, technological and economic changes, and our nation's changing world role.

A nationally representative sample of more than 7,000 fourth-graders participated. The graph below shows the average scale scores of fourth-graders over time. There was no significant change from 2006 to 2010 in the average fourth-grade U.S. history student score; however, the score in 2010 was higher than the score in 1994.



NAEP results are reported as percentages of students performing at or above the *Basic* and *Proficient* levels and at the *Advanced* level. The percentages of fourth-grade students at or above *Basic* and *Proficient* increased from 1994 to 2010. Seventy-three percent of students performed at or above the *Basic* level in 2010, and 20 percent performed at or above the *Proficient* level. There were no significant changes in the percentages of students at or above *Basic* and *Proficient* since 2006; however, both percentages were higher in 2010 than in 1994. Two percent of students performed at the *Advanced* level in 2010, which was not significantly different from the percentages in earlier assessment years.



Grade 4 U.S. History Achievement Levels

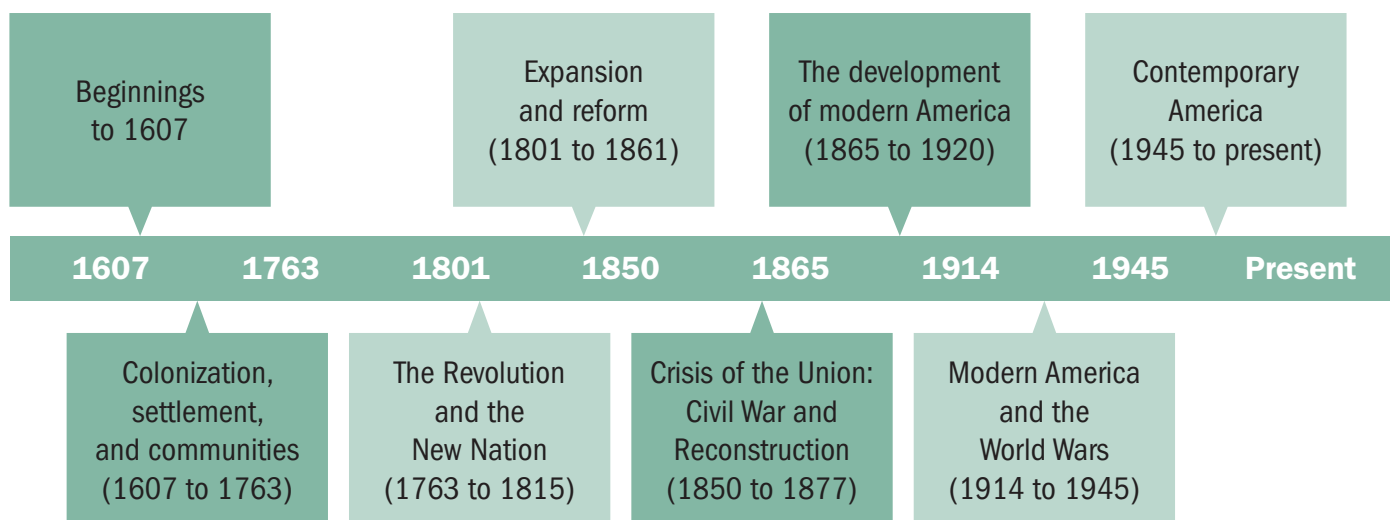
In the 2010 NAEP U.S. history assessment, 73 percent of fourth-graders performed at or above the *Basic* level. Examples of skills demonstrated by students performing at the three different achievement levels are shown below.

| Achievement Level | Description | Fourth-graders performing at this level can... |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Basic | <i>Basic</i> denotes partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work. | Interpret a map about the colonial economy. |
| Proficient | <i>Proficient</i> represents solid academic performance, with students demonstrating competency over challenging subject matter. | Understand that canals increased trade among states. |
| Advanced | <i>Advanced</i> represents superior academic performance. | Explain how machines and factories changed work. |

NAEP 2010 U.S. History Content

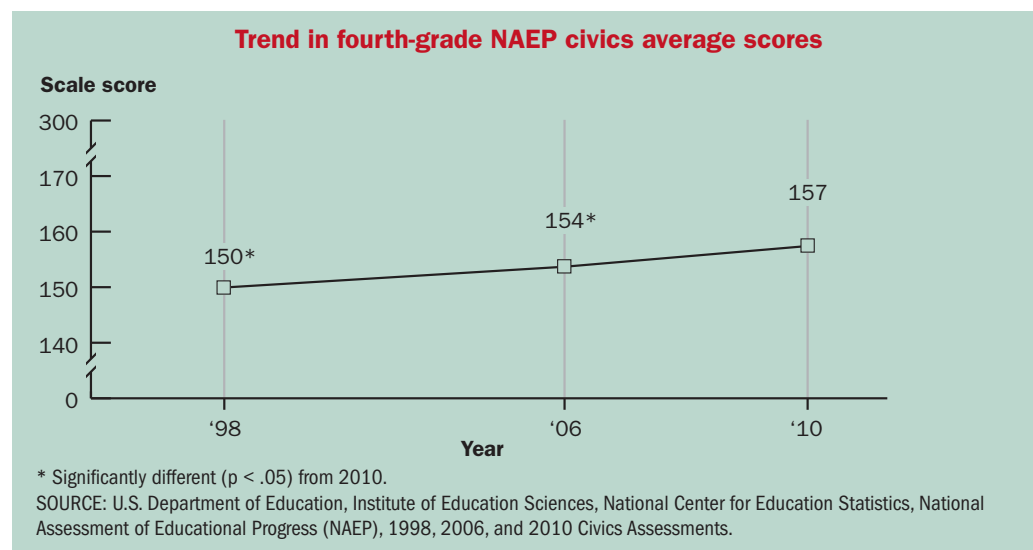
According to the U.S. history framework developed by the National Assessment Governing Board, the assessment was organized around three main components: *Themes in U.S. History*, *Periods of U.S. History*, and *Ways of Knowing and Thinking about U.S. History*.

Eight chronological periods were used in developing the assessment to ensure appropriate chronological coverage. The periods focus attention on several major eras of U.S. history and overlap at times. The eight periods are as follows:



NAEP 2010 Civics Results

A nationally representative sample of about 7,100 fourth-graders participated in the 2010 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in civics. Students responded to questions designed to measure the civics knowledge and skills that are critical to the responsibilities of citizenship in our nation's constitutional democracy. As the graph below shows, the average score for the nation's fourth-graders was 3 points higher in 2010 than in 2006 and 7 points higher than in 1998.



Civics performance improves from 1998 to 2010 for most racial/ethnic groups at grade 4.

Grade 4 Civics Achievement Levels

In the 2010 NAEP civics assessment, 77 percent of fourth-graders performed at or above the *Basic* level and 23 percent of fourth-graders scored below the *Basic* level. Examples of skills demonstrated by students performing at the three different achievement levels are shown below.

| Achievement Level | Description | Fourth-graders performing at this level can... |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Basic | <i>Basic</i> denotes partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work. | Identify the method used to select public office holders. |
| Proficient | <i>Proficient</i> represents solid academic performance, with students demonstrating competency over challenging subject matter. | Give an example of how to help one's country and explain why it is important. |
| Advanced | <i>Advanced</i> represents superior academic performance. | Explain two ways countries can deal with shared problems. |

How much time is spent studying social studies?

About 80 percent of fourth-grade students had teachers who reported spending 61 minutes or more on social studies instruction in a typical week.

What Is The Nation's Report Card?

The Nation's Report Card informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. Report cards communicate the findings of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a continuing and nationally representative measure of achievement in various subjects over time.

Since 1969, NAEP assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and other subjects. By collecting and reporting information on student performance at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement and relevant variables is collected. The privacy of individual students and their families is protected, and the identities of participating schools are not released.

This publication was prepared for the National Assessment of Educational Progress by Westat under contract (ED-07-CO-0083) to the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

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If you want to...

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| Learn about the NAEP long-term trend assessment | The Nation's Report Card at http://nationsreportcard.gov/ltt_2008/ltt0016.asp |
| View NAEP data for a particular state or contact your NAEP State Coordinator | The National Center for Education Statistics at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states |
| Access specific results for a grade level, subject, jurisdiction, and/or demographic groups | The NAEP Data Explorer at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata |
| Find information regarding the types of questions used on NAEP assessments or view subject-specific questions | The NAEP Questions Tool at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx |
| Download a Sample Questions booklet that contains sample test questions for the upcoming and previous assessments | The National Center for Education Statistics at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp |
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